

REMARKS

Reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims, in view of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

In the pending Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 18, 19, and 21-24, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as allegedly being anticipated or alternatively, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Uchida '051 (U.S. Patent No. 6,057,051).

By this Amendment, claim 18 has been amended to provide a clearer presentation of the claimed subject matter. No new matter has been introduced. As such, claims 18-19 and 21-24 are currently presented for examination, of which claim 18 is the sole independent claim.

Applicant traverses the art rejections under §102(b)/§103(a) for the following reasons:

I. Rejections Under §102(b)/§103(a).

As noted above, independent claim 18 is directed to an electronic apparatus and positively recites, *inter alia*, ***fuel cell unit*** comprising a ***sensing unit that*** senses a remaining amount of fuel in the tank, and ***senses whether the tank is installed in the installation portion***, a ***first storage unit*** which stores information indicating the remaining amount of fuel sensed by the sensing unit, and ***stores information indicating a result sensed by the sensing unit***, the first storage unit being accessible by the body, and a ***controller*** which includes a second storage unit and directly reads the information indicating the remaining amount of fuel sensed by the sensing unit from the first storage unit and the ***information indicating whether the tank is installed in the installation portion sensed by the sensing unit***.

These features are amply supported by the various embodiments disclosed in the written description. By way of example only, the disclosed embodiments provide that the E2PROM 26 is a memory device for storing status information indicating the state of the fuel cell unit 2. The microcomputer 21 records various states detected by various sensors, including ***the installation and removal sensor 2212***, liquid level sensor 2231, temperature sensor 2251, and acceleration sensor 25, into the E2PROM 26 in the form of status information. In addition, the microcomputer

21 has the function of computing the remaining amount of fuel in the fuel tank 2211 according to the operating state of the DMFC 22. The microcomputer 21 also records the computed remaining amount into the E2PROM 26. (See, e.g., Specification: page 10, line 22 – page 11, line 10). With regard to the status information, the power supply management utility determines whether or not the fuel tank 2211 has been installed. If the fuel tank 2211 has not been installed, the power supply management utility displays a message to prompt the user to install the fuel tank 2211. (See, e.g., Specification: page 12, lines 5-12).

Applicants submit that the asserted reference fails to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 18, including the features identified above. In particular, Uchida '051 discloses various methods for detecting an operating time of the fuel cell and provides that such methods include (i) a method of using a pressure sensor for detecting an amount of the hydrogen remaining in the hydrogen storage unit 5, (ii) a method of detecting an accumulated flow rate of the hydrogen, (iii) a method of integrating an amount of the generated electricity to find an amount of reaction of the hydrogen to thereby calculate an amount of the remaining hydrogen, and (iv) a method of detecting an amount of the formed water by the above-mentioned method to calculate an amount of consumption of the hydrogen. (See, Uchida '051: col. 7, lines 39-48).

There is, however, nothing in Uchida '051 that remotely suggests the claimed fuel cell unit configuration which enables the unit to sense whether the fuel tank is installed and store the sensed results as status information in unit's memory which can be accessed from the main body. As such, Uchida '051 clearly fails to disclose a *fuel cell unit* comprising a *sensing unit that senses a remaining amount of fuel in the tank, and senses whether the tank is installed in the installation portion*, a *first storage unit* which stores information indicating the remaining amount of fuel sensed by the sensing unit, and *stores information indicating a result sensed by the sensing unit*, the first storage unit being accessible by the body, as required by claim 18. Nor is there anything in Uchida '051 that discloses a *controller* which includes a second storage unit and directly reads the information indicating the remaining amount of fuel sensed by the sensing unit from the first storage unit and the *information indicating whether the tank is installed in the installation portion sensed by the sensing unit*, as also required by claim 18.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Uchida '051 is incapable of anticipating or rendering claim 18 unpatentable. As such, claim 18 is clearly patentable. In addition, because claims 19 and 21-24 depend from claim 18, claims 19 and 21-24 are patentable at least by virtue of dependency as well as for their additional recitations. Accordingly, the immediate withdrawal of the rejections of claims 18-19 and 21-24 under §102(b)/§103(a) is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion.


All matters having been addressed and in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the immediate allowance of all pending claims.

Applicants' Representative remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the Undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number **03-3975**. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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